

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

SUPPORTING H.R. 1375, THE PROVIDE ACCURATE INFORMATION DIRECTLY ACT

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 17, 2020

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 1375, the Provide Accurate Information Directly (or PAID) Act which includes an important provision amending the Medicare Secondary Payer Act. That provision facilitates expanded communication between the Medicare program and insurers and self-insured entities settling liability, no-fault, and workers' compensation claims with Medicare beneficiaries who may be covered by a Medicare Advantage (Part C) Plan or Medicare Prescription Drug (Part D) Plan. This is important for Medicare beneficiaries, who today resolve claims around a car crash or a slip and fall, but because of the way the law works can later be sued by a Medicare Advantage Plan for repayment. It has happened before—the PAID Act will fix that problem and allow beneficiaries to sleep at night knowing that they have fully resolved their claims.

Congress amended the MSP statute in 2007 through Section 111 of the MMSEA to require parties to a dispute (known as "Primary Plans") to report settlements, judgments and awards to Medicare, called "Section 111 Reports." That allowed Medicare to seek recovery from settling parties under the Act when Medicare paid for health care because other payment was not available or reasonably expected to be available. While that program has been successful for the Medicare fee-for-service program, where the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) has the claims data for recovery, it has not been as successful for the Part C and Part D programs, where CMS does not have the Part C and Part D claims data and cannot recover for payments that have been made. To compound the problem, settling parties are often unable to identify the correct Part C or Part D plan to be able to coordinate benefits should they choose to do so. The PAID Act closes that critical information gap, by having CMS communicate the Part C and Part D plan identification to settling parties in response to a Section 111 Report. CMS has that data and can provide it.

Congress is aware that for the last eight years CMS has provided all Section 111 Reports to the Part C and Part D Plans, and Congress expects that CMS will continue to do so after this legislation is enacted. Further, the existing MSP statute and regulations impose specific requirements on CMS, and on Part C and Part D Plans, to pay for claims in some situations, to not pay for claims in other situations, and to pursue recovery of claims when appropriate. Nothing in this legislation is intended to change any of those obligations or requirements, and Congress expects Part C and Part D Plans to continue to seek recovery of claims by timely notifying settling parties

when a payment has been made that should be reimbursed, consistent with the CMS notice procedures. This legislation is only intended to provide more information to the settling parties, so that they have the ability to coordinate with Part C and Part D Plans earlier if they so choose.

Congress has afforded CMS 18 months to implement this law and urges CMS to move with all deliberate speed to both implement its own system changes and coordinate with all Primary Plans throughout the implementation process. Regular communication and coordination will be critical to ensuring that Primary Plans are aware of the data exchange requirements that CMS plans to implement, and to ensure that Primary Plans are prepared as quickly as possible to utilize the data CMS will be providing under this law. By involving all stakeholders throughout the implementation process, CMS can implement our intention that the needed Plan identity information be available for parties to coordinate benefits as quickly as possible.

I urge my colleagues to support this fix.

URBAN FARMING

HON. KWANZA HALL

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 17, 2020

Mr. HALL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to speak on the importance of urban farming.

Urban Farming first had its start during World War II where it supplied over 40 percent of produce.

But in recent days, it is making a comeback, and just in time. As our population grows, it is unrealistic to expect that urban farming will meet all of our food needs.

But, it will most certainly make a dent. But it will also do other things. It will encourage healthier diets, which is a much-needed skill for many in urban areas, who often resort to fast food and other conveniences of big city life.

It will also do must erode the large caloric diets that many in cities follow. Urban farming also bolsters local communities by bringing folks together, which itself foster greater collaboration and understanding of other people.

It can deliver produce at a lower cost, leaving families to spend on other costs of living, like housing.

It can also be good for the environment, as it can reduce CO2 emissions attendant with transporting food from faraway farms to urban centers.

And, it can also be another source of minority entrepreneurship by encouraging ownership of these farming centers with those who live in the buildings where the food is grown.

There are many benefits to this practice and I hope that we can take advantage of them in the days ahead.

IN HONOR OF JAYME ORR RHODES

HON. JOHN JOYCE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 17, 2020

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Jayme Orr Rhodes of Blair County, Pennsylvania for her service to Pennsylvania's 13th Congressional District on the 2020 U.S. Service Academy Nomination Committee.

Nominating exceptional candidates to attend our nation's service academies is one of my most important responsibilities in Congress. During this process, I rely on members of the Service Academy Nomination Committee, which is comprised of dedicated volunteers who have served our nation with distinction.

Jayme is one of nine academy alumni who graciously volunteered their time to meet with and evaluate perspective nominees for the Class of 2025. As a graduate of the United States Military Academy in West Point, New York, Jayme knows firsthand the qualities and dedication that are critical for succeeding at the academies. She provided wise counsel and expertise throughout the nominating process, and I am grateful for her time and commitment.

Jayme Orr Rhodes is an outstanding Pennsylvanian and American, as well as an excellent role model for future academy students. On behalf of the 13th District of Pennsylvania, it is my honor to recognize Jayme for her service to our community and our nation.

EAGLE SCOUTS

HON. NEAL P. DUNN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 17, 2020

Mr. DUNN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize three exceptional students from Florida's Second Congressional District who will soon earn the esteemed Eagle Scout rank. Corey Phelps and Sean Farnsley, of Port St. Joe, Florida, recently completed their community service projects to meet the requirements for the Eagle Scout rank.

Sean's Eagle project was to build a butterfly garden and reflecting area at the Constitution Convention Museum State Park in Port St. Joe.

Corey's project was to build a flag deposit box out of steel for the John C. Gainous Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 10069.

This is the first time in Troop 347's existence that two scouts have become members of the 2020 Gulf Coast Council Eagle Class.

It has also been approximately twenty-four years since Port St. Joe has had its last Eagle Scout.

But they weren't the only ones making history.

Macey Hartman of Chiles High School in Tallahassee, Florida will be a part of the national inaugural class of female Eagle Scouts.

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